



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: February 21, 2002

To: Transportation and Public Works Committee

Referral to: Ways & Means Committee

Subject: Water System Interconnection with Saint Paul Regional Water Services

Recommendation:

Authorize the proper city officials to accept the proposal of, and develop an agreement with CTE Engineers (in association with Springsted, Inc.) to conduct a study of a Water System Interconnection between Minneapolis and St. Paul. Also authorize proper city officials to direct the work of this engineering consultant and financial subconsultant. Funds are available under Fund/Agency/Org/Project (7400/950/ 9515/C5301010).

Previous Directives:

On October 12, 2001, the City Council authorized the proper city officials to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for this project. The Permanent Review Committee reviewed the RFP on October 11, and sent a letter of acceptance on October 23, 2001.

Prepared or Submitted by: Adam J. Kramer, P.E., Director Water Works, Tel. 2418

Approved: David J. Sonnenberg, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

By: Adam Kramer

Presenters in Committee: David J. Sonnenberg, P. E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

☒ No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

- ☐ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- ☐ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- ☐ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- ☐ Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- ☐ Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

- Neighborhood Notification
- City Goals
- Comprehensive Plan
- Zoning Code
- Other

February 21, 2002 (updated version 2)

Transportation and Public Works Committee

Subject: Water System Interconnection with Saint Paul Regional Water Services
Continued

Background/Supporting Information (No Additional Information Attached)

The Minneapolis Water Works (MWW), in cooperation with Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS), sought proposals from qualified engineering consultants to perform a feasibility study to evaluate a possible interconnection between the two water systems.

The idea of an interconnection has been discussed since the 1960's at various times by both cities. In 1991, Minneapolis Water Works hired a consultant to identify various water supply emergency conditions and evaluate alternatives to overcome those conditions. The consultant identified points of vulnerability [information withheld for security reasons]. The report also evaluated 22 large-scale alternatives to improve the reliability of the overall water system. The two most reasonable alternatives were: 1) increased finished water storage, and 2) an interconnection with St. Paul. Additional storage is almost complete at one reservoir location, and more storage is planned for a second location.

The proposed study will assess current vulnerabilities for the existing systems of both cities, then develop and evaluate alternatives for constructing an interconnection. The study will include engineering and financial evaluations to develop a cost / risk / benefit comparison and a cost allocation formula.

The interconnection study will serve as a general guide for both cities in deciding whether an interconnection between the two cities is justified. It will also include issues that need to be addressed in a future Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the Cities if the interconnection is constructed.

We sent 14 Requests for Proposals (RFP's) and conducted a pre-proposal meeting to give potential proposers some background on the project. We received four proposals from teams that represented six of the firms that received RFP's. After reviewing the proposals, we interviewed all four teams.

CTE Engineers (Consoer Townsend Envirodyne Engineers, Inc.), with Springsted, Inc. as a financial subconsultant, was selected as the best qualified firm to do the work, based on a consensus decision between the MWW and SPRWS staff involved in the review.

The project fee will be \$100,000 total, with half paid by Minneapolis and the other half paid by St. Paul. Both cities have already executed a Joint Powers Agreement to allow Minneapolis to administer the contract and St. Paul to pay their share of the cost. The construction, operation and maintenance costs of the interconnection will be developed in the proposed study. Possible funding source, including federal funds, will be investigated, in addition to the investigation already in progress by MWW staff.